

Appl. S.N. 10/063,807
Amdt. Dated August 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 2, 2005

RD-29640-2

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2005, wherein claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (a) as being anticipated by Overall P.N. 6,552,542. In this amendment, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 USC §102 (a) on Overall is respectfully traversed. The present invention, as claimed in Claims 1 and 8 is patentable over the Overall reference. "Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." W.L. Gore & Associates v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

The Overall reference does not disclose each element of the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 8. Specifically, the present invention claims applying a plurality of steady-state free precession (SSFP) radio-frequency (RF) excitation pulses in a selected pattern of varying amplitudes and phases, the pulses having substantially equal spacing between all neighboring pulses and between successive groups of pulses". The Overall reference does not teach or suggest the recited SSFP RF excitation pulses in a selected pattern of varying amplitudes and phases. By contrast, the Overall reference instead teaches altering linearly the RF phase of SSFP pulses. Nowhere does the Overall reference teach or disclose Applicants' recited pattern of varying amplitudes and phases. Therefore, the present invention, as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 8 is not anticipated by the Overall reference. Claims 2-7 and 9-12 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 8, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2-7 and 9-12 are allowable by dependency.

Therefore, as stated above, the present invention, as claimed in Claims 1-12 are patentable over the Overall reference. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection

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of Claims 1 and 8 under 35 USC §102 (a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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